SUNDAY 10 AM
3 April
THE HUMAN SEXUALITY SUNDAY SCHOOL CURRICULUM, led by Fred and Ann Seidl. This is the introduction to the program which the Seidls had planned to give for parents of participating students only. However, we felt that the entire Society might be interested in knowing more about the program. The former stipulation is still in force: i.e., parents of participating students must attend this service if their offspring are to enroll.

SUNDAY 10 AM
10 April
FAMILY SERVICE AND POTLUCK BRUNCH: Bring any kind of goodies, as long as they can be eaten with fingers.

SATURDAY 8 PM
16 April
Play reading at Linda Pluim's house, 4124 Keewatin Trail, 831-5517. The play will be Agatha Christie's "Ten Little Indians." Everyone is welcome. Come for an enjoyable evening.

SUNDAY 10 AM
17 April
EVERYTHING YOU HAVE EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT HOMOSEXUALITY, BUT HAVE BEEN AFRAID TO ASK, led by a panel from the Gay Center and the Lesbian Switchboard, and involving small group discussions.

SUNDAY 7 PM
17 April
Annual Parish Meeting and election of officers for next year. Portal Foster. See agenda and list of nominations attached.

SUNDAY 10 AM
24 April

SATURDAY 8 PM
30 April
The Social Action Committee's annual auction. It will be held at Theron Caldwell's house, 1228 Sherman Avenue. Ted Clark will once again be auctioneer. If you have an item--or a service--to sell, it might be a good idea to call Dean Schroeder (256-8813) or Betty Jallings (835-3746), but if you forget, bring it anyway.

NEW MEMBER CEREMONY

Warren Hagstrom announces that the family service on Easter Sunday, April 10, will include a ceremony welcoming new members to our community. We'll have separate ceremonies for two categories of new members, the very young and the adult. We'll have one ceremony to welcome, dedicate, baptize, or otherwise note infants and young children who have joined us recently. And we'll have another ceremony to welcome adults who have joined us as members in the past year. If you wish your child or yourself to participate in the ceremonies, please contact President Pat Cautley or Warren Hagstrom (Ceremonies Committee) at a Sunday service or by phone to Warren (238-4970). Participants will be encouraged to help organize the ceremonies, if they wish.
FROM THE PRESIDENT

We have just received Promise of Spring. What more inviting title could we imagine right now! This is a lovely little publication from the UUA, a collection of forty meditations by Clinton Lee Scott, on such all-encompassing topics as "Wagabonds," "Belonging," "Forgiveness," "Doubt." A copy will be on the Membership table during the next few Sunday mornings and we urge all to examine it and, if you wish, leave your order for one. It is only $1.25. Here are the first lines of a verse on "The Rich."

"Our possessions are more than the things we call our own.
They who have only the trappings of comfort and security
are indeed poor.
Our estate is limited only by the horizon of our minds.
The universe belongs to us—all continents, all seas, and
the star-studded sky."

Ric Masten, whom many of us have heard in the past—a poet, musician, philosopher, and down-to-earth speaker—will be in this area on April 28 and 29, but needs sponsorship by a college or university for an all-day program. A church group can ask him to put on an evening program for $50 if he is booked by a school for a day at $250. Has anyone an inspiration as to possible sources of funds for him?

Dr. Lajos Kovacs, Bishop of the Unitarian Church in Romania, will speak at the Unitarian Church in Hinsdale at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 1. The Unitarian denomination in Romania, over 400 years old, is the progenitor of Unitarian congregations in England and North America. A unique opportunity.

Combine a vacation trip with an authentic experience of Mexico. WUURLD's La Vida Mexicana—Summer programs for youth and adults. Live and work with a Mexican weaver, potter, woodcarver, farmer, fisher for two weeks; or attend a five-week language school, including courses in Mexican arts and crafts. Anni Pratt has the folder, or you can get one from The Rev. Dick Weston-Jones, WUURLD Director, P.O. Box 8101, Jacksonville, Florida, 32211. Phone 904-246-0476, or 904-725-8133.

SOME JANE FARWELL OFFERINGS

Those of you who enjoyed Jane Farwell's family day service at Prairie will be interested in learning about some coming family events at Folklore Village where she lives. To get to Folklore Village, go south about 12 miles on BB from Highway 18-151. BB comes into 19-151 past Ridgeway, two miles going west.

On May 1st, Sunday afternoon, beginning about 1:00 p.m., there will be a potluck dinner and maypole dance. The May Queen and Jack-in-the-Green will be there. Ends about 5:00 p.m.

June 12th and July 17th are also scheduled for potluck dinners.

Call ahead to confirm date (924-3725). Prices: Children—75¢, adults—$1.25.

Events scheduled for later in the summer and next fall will be described in later newsletters.

Paula Elkins
MORE ON SUMMER SINGLES

A CAMP FOR SINGLE ADULTS will be held at Lake Geneva, Wis., July 10-16, the week after the U-U Summer Assembly and at the same location. It’s sponsored by Adult Midwest Unitarian-Universalist Singles Enrichment (AMUUSE). Program includes: Mornings: Discussion or personal growth groups. Afternoons: Swimming, boating, tennis, special events. Evenings: Parties, dancing, play reading, poetry & music sharing, folk & square dance led by talent imported from Madison especially for the occasion: Hermine & Charlie Davidson! Similar camp at Saugatuck, Mich., Aug. 21-27. Flyers available at Prairie or from Mary Lou Diehl, 5729 Elder Pl., Madison, Wis. 53705 (233-4357).

Mary Lou Diehl

ON HELPLESSNESS

"G.S. Dineck(1773) was able to alleviate learned helplessness displayed by ten-to-thirteen-year-olds with respect to arithmetic. She selected twelve classroom failures as the most helpless of 750 students in two New Haven public schools. These children were notorious for the ease with which they gave up and stared into space when they failed on arithmetic problems. She divided them into two treatment groups, a 'success only' (SO) group and an 'attribution retraining' (AR) group, and gave them arithmetic problems they could successfully or failure was avoided or glossed over by the choice of problem. The AR group received the same easy problems, but twice a day they received problems that were beyond their abilities. When they failed, they were told: 'Time's up. You didn't finish in time. You needed to solve three and you only solved two. That means you should have tried harder.' In other words, they were trained to attribute failure to their own lack of effort. After retraining, both groups were tested on their response to failing at new arithmetic problems. The SO group continued to go to pieces after failure. The AR subjects, in marked contrast, showed no impairment following failure, and even improvement, as well as reduced test anxiety.

This is an important experiment. It indicates that helplessness caused by failure in the classroom can be reversed, even in apparently intractable cases. The crucial manipulation was training the school children to cope with failure by attributing it to their own lack of effort. Such an attribution replaces the belief of a helpless child that he fails because there is nothing he can do. On the other hand, exposure to repeated success in which failure is avoided or glossed over leaves the child helpless, or makes him more so. To reverse classroom helplessness, it is necessary to experience some failure and to develop a way to cope with it.

The lack of experience coping with failure produces helplessness not only in gradeschool, but at advanced levels of education. If a young adult has no experience of coping with anxiety and frustration, if he never fails and then overcomes, he will not be able to cope with failure, boredom, or frustration when it becomes crucial. Too much success, too coddled an existence, makes a child helpless when he is finally confronted with his first failure. Recall the 'golden girl' who feels apart in college, when she found that rewards did not fall into her lap as readily as they had in high school." From Helpleness by Martin E.P. Seligman, Freeman, 1975.

From Paula Elkins, Religious Education chair.
Prairie Unitarian-Universalist Society

To Mr. Rachel Siegfried
5209 Tolman Terrace
Madison, WI 53711

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